

STATEMENT OF BASIS (AI No. 83921)

for draft Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit No. LA0113191 to discharge to waters of the State of Louisiana.

THE APPLICANT IS: Belmont Fleet, LLC
111 Veterans Blvd. – Suite 1060
Metairie, Louisiana 70005

ISSUING OFFICE: Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ)
Office of Environmental Services
Post Office Box 4313
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4313

PREPARED BY: Molly Hebert

DATE PREPARED: November 15, 2005

1. PERMIT STATUS

A. Reason For Permit Action:

Renewal of a Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) permit for a 5-year term.

B. NPDES permit - LPDES Permit Issuance Date: August 1, 2001
LPDES Permit Expiration Date: July 31, 2006

C. LWDPS permit - NA

D. Date Application Received: October 20, 2005

2. FACILITY INFORMATION

A. FACILITY TYPE/ACTIVITY - barge cleaning and repair facility

This is an existing barge cleaning (90%) and repair (5%) facility. The barges are open top hopper and dry bulk cargo barges. Cleaning will consist of sweeping barges to remove any remaining product. Then 2" and 3" pumps will be used to pump water from the river to wash the barge. This water will then be pumped back to the river.

Barges cleaned at this facility include grain, bulk cement, limestone rock, iron and aluminum ore, steam coal, wood chips and dunnage, barite, bauxite, granular sugar, hematite, and urea hoppers.

This facility has not had any discharges of barge washwater during the course of the previous permit. At this time, the barge cleaning aspect of the facility is not in operation. However, the company has plans to undertake this activity and wishes to keep the outfalls for barge cleaning.

B. FEE RATE

1. Fee Rating Facility Type: minor
2. Complexity Type: II as per LAC33:IX.1319 Table I and SIC 4463. In Appendix A - Section IV (Relation of 1987 to 1977 Industries) of the Standard Industrial Classification Manual, the SIC code 4491 is equivalent to a previous SIC code of 4463
3. Wastewater Type: III
4. SIC code: 4491 and 3731

C. LOCATION – East Bank of the Mississippi River, off LA HWY 44 at Oneida, M.P. 153.7, St. James Parish Latitude 30°00'33", Longitude 90°47'26"

3. OUTFALL INFORMATION

Outfall 001

Discharge Type: dry commodity barge washwater
Treatment: none
Location: at the point of discharge from the barge outlet, prior to combining with any other waters
Flow: intermittent
Discharge Route: to the Mississippi River

Outfall 002

Discharge Type: coal and/or coke barge washwater
Treatment: none
Location: sampled at the point of discharge from the barge outlet, prior to combining with any other waters
Flow: intermittent
Discharge Route: to the Mississippi River

Outfall 003

Discharge Type: ballast water (A = incoming ballast from customer barges; B = maintenance ballast from work, treatment, spar or office barges)
Treatment: none
Location: at the point of discharge from the appropriate barge, prior to combining with any other waters
Flow: intermittent
Discharge Route: to the Mississippi River

Other Discharges –

Stormwater will be addressed with a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWP3) required in Part II of the permit.

4. RECEIVING WATERS

STREAM - Mississippi River

BASIN AND SEGMENT - Mississippi River Basin, Segment 070301

DESIGNATED USES - a. primary contact recreation
b. secondary contact recreation
c. fish and wildlife propagation
d. drinking water supply

5. PROPOSED EFFLUENT LIMITS

BASIS - See Rationale on page 5.

6. COMPLIANCE HISTORY/COMMENTS

A. Compliance History

1. WQMD: There are no open, appealed, or pending OEC enforcement actions as of November 18, 2005.
2. DMR Review: There are no DMR's for this facility, as of November 18, 2005. Per Wright and Associates (consultant), the facility has yet to commence barge cleaning operations, so no DMRs were submitted. The facility has been informed that DMRs, marked "no discharge" must be submitted to the Agency.

7. 303(d) LISTED WATERBODIES

The discharges from Belmont Fleet, LLC are to the Mississippi River, Subsegment 070301 of the Mississippi River Basin. Subsegment 070301 is not listed on LDEQ's Final 2004 303(d) List as impaired, and to date no TMDL's have been established. A reopener clause will be established in the permit to allow for the requirement of more stringent effluent limitations and requirements as imposed by any future TMDLs.

8. ENDANGERED SPECIES

The receiving waterbody, Subsegment 070301 of the Mississippi River Basin, has been identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) as habitat for the Pallid Sturgeon which is listed as an endangered species. LDEQ has not submitted this draft permit to the FWS for review in accordance with a letter dated October 21, 2005 from Watson (FWS) to Gautreaux (LDEQ). As set forth in the Memorandum of Understanding between the LDEQ and the FWS, and based on information provided by the FWS, LDEQ has determined that the issuance of the LPDES permit is not likely to have an adverse effect upon the Pallid Sturgeon. Effluent limitations are established in the permit to ensure protection of aquatic life and maintenance of the receiving water as aquatic habitat. The more stringent of technology and water quality based limits (as applicable) have been applied to ensure maximum protection of the receiving water.

9. HISTORIC SITES

The discharge is from an existing facility location, which does not include an expansion on undisturbed soils. Therefore, there should be no potential effect to sites or properties on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, and in accordance with the "Memorandum of Understanding for the Protection of Historic Properties in Louisiana Regarding LPDES Permits" no consultation with the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer is required.

10. TENTATIVE DETERMINATION

On the basis of preliminary staff review, the Department of Environmental Quality has made a tentative determination to issue a permit for the discharge described in the application.

11. PUBLIC NOTICES

Upon publication of the public notice, a public comment period shall begin on the date of publication and last for at least 30 days thereafter. During this period, any interested persons may submit written comments on the draft permit and may request a public hearing to clarify issues involved in the permit decision at this Office's address on the first page of the statement of basis. A request for a public hearing shall be in writing and shall state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised in the hearing.

Public notice published in:

Local newspaper of general circulation

Office of Environmental Services Public Notice Mailing List

Rationale for Belmont Fleet, LLC

1. Outfall 001: dry commodity barge washwater

Based on BPJ and on permits for similar facilities, no effluent limitations are established for washwaters from barges previously containing dry commodities. Best Management Practices (BMPs) for barge operations are listed in Part II.

Treatment: none

BPJ Best Professional Judgment

This facility is not subject to Effluent Limitations Guidelines for Transportation Equipment Cleaning, 40 CFR Part 442, because, in accordance with 40 CFR 442.1.a, "this part applies to discharges resulting from cleaning the interior of tanks used to transport chemical, petroleum or food grade cargos." This facility does not clean tanks. Only open top hopper barges are cleaned.

2. Outfall 002: coal and/or coke barge washwater

Pollutant	Limitation	Reference
	Monthly Avg:Daily Max (mg/l)	
Flow	Report:Report	LAC 33:IX.2361.I.1.b
COD	250:400	*
TSS	Report:Report	*
pH	6.0 - 9.0 su	*

Treatment: none

Monitoring Frequency: 1/week for Flow, COD, and pH, and 1/month for TSS at the point of discharge from the barge being washed

Limits Justification: limits are based on LDEQ Office practices for permitting coal and /or coke barge washwater.

3. Outfall 003A: incoming ballast water from customer barges

Pollutant	Limitation	Reference
	Monthly Avg:Daily Max (mg/l)	
Flow	Report:Report	LAC 33:IX.2361.I.1.b
COD	---:250	*
Oil and Grease	---:15	*
pH	6.0 - 9.0 su	*

Treatment: none

Monitoring Frequency: 1/week at the point of discharge of incoming ballast water from customer barges

Limits Justification: limits are based on LDEQ Office practices for permitting ballast wastewater

Note: Hydrostatic test water may be discharged as ballast/void water provided: a) it is the ballast/void tanks being hydrostatic tested, and b) that no additives such as corrosion inhibitors, bactericides, and dyes are added to the test water.

su Standard Units

* LDEQ Office practices for permitting ballast wastewater

4. Outfall 003B: maintenance and dry dock ballast water

Pollutant	Limitation	Reference
	Monthly Avg:Daily Max (mg/l)	
Flow	Report:Report	LAC 33:IX.2361.I.1.b
COD	---:250	*
Oil and Grease	---:15	*
pH	6.0 - 9.0 su	*

Treatment: none

Monitoring Frequency: 1/month at the point of discharge of maintenance or dry dock ballast water. **(may be discharged without sampling provided there is no visible oil sheen)**

Limits Justification: limits are based on LDEQ Office practices for permitting ballast wastewater

Note: Hydrostatic test water may be discharged as ballast/void water provided: a) it is the ballast/void tanks being hydrostatic tested, and b) that no additives such as corrosion inhibitors, bactericides, and dyes are added to the test water.

su Standard Units

* LDEQ Office practices for permitting ballast wastewater

Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWP3) Requirement

A SWP3 is included in the permit because in accordance with LAC 33:IX.2511.A.1.b, stormwater discharges that are associated with industrial activity shall be monitored. In accordance with LAC 33:IX.2511.B.14, SIC codes 3731 and 4491 is considered to be associated with industrial activity.

The SWP3 shall be prepared, implemented, and maintained within six (6) months of the effective date of the final permit. The plan should identify potential sources of storm water pollution and ensure the implementation of practices to prevent and reduce pollutants in storm water discharges associated with industrial activity at the facility (see Part II, Paragraph R of the Draft Permit).

If the permittee maintains other plans that contain duplicative information, those plans could be incorporated by reference into the SWP3. Examples of these type plans include, but are not limited to: Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan (SPCC), Best Management Plan (BMP), Response Plans, etc.